SECR[illegible]

The Attorney General

July 15, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Martindale

JAMES EARL RAY

Sheriff William N. MORRIS [redacted] Shelby County, Tennessee, has furnished the following information regarding his plans to transport James Earl Ray from the Memphis Naval Air Station to the Shelby County Jail and to provide for the security of the prisoner in the jail.

Transportation to the jail will be handled by the Sheriff's Tactical Unit. The prisoner will be transported in an armored car which will be accompanied by approximately five other automobiles. Four of the automobiles will each be manned by five fully armed and uniformed deputies. The other automobile will be occupied by four deputies armed with automatic weapons.

A special cell block is being prepared on the third floor of the Shelby County Jail. Ray will be housed in this unit which contains five separate cells. No other prisoners will be in this cell block. Steel plate is being installed inside the windows of this cell block and windows of the County Office Building, the only adjacent building, will also be secured. The Sheriff is arranging for public business normally transacted in the County Office Building to be handled at other locations while Ray is in jail.

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The cell block selected for Ray has two television monitors as well as an audio monitoring system. A group of fourteen specially selected deputies will be exclusively assigned to Ray's custody. Two of these guards will be within the cell block at all times to keep the prisoner under constant observation and to maintain a written log. Food for Ray will be selected on a random basis from food served other prisoners.

REC- 78

SECRET

44-38861-4845

Group 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

JUL 16 1968

WLM:vea
(7)

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

The Attorney General

Sheriff Morris has also advised that the deputies to be used in guarding Ray will be trained by John J. Clark, Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C. According to Sheriff Morris, Lieutenant John Brown, also of the Bureau of Prisons, is presently furnishing advice and guidance on a continuing basis to one of the deputies who will be handling Ray.

This matter will be closely followed and any pertinent developments will be promptly brought to your attention.

1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

NOTE:
Classified Secret as material received from Department regarding plans for Ray's removal has been so classified.